

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

LT WORKERS FIGHT BACK

The possibility of an all-out transport strike across London was narrowly averted at the end of June when the London Transport board agreed to postpone the proposed cuts in Tube services for a further month.

The stoppage began on the Underground when technicians refused to implement the planned cuts in services by changing the programme rolls, which control the signalling system. They were suspended and their union, the NUR, called on its members to support them by refusing also to work the new schedules. The drivers and guards union, ASLEF, also called on its members to support the action.

One Hackney ASLEF member told HPP: "The way in which the train crews responded to the call for support of the technicians was terrific, unbelievable."

Union action

The service cuts have come about as a direct result of the Law Lords ruling last December that the GLC's Fair Fare scheme was illegal. Because LT was forced to double its fares in March the number of people using the buses and Tubes has gone down dramatically - some estimates by as much as 20%. LT say that they therefore have to cut the service that they operate, and they planned to do this on the Underground on 21 June, and on the buses on 31 July. The unions have at last decided to take action in saving these services, and preventing job losses that would follow on.

A number of bus garages also took industrial action during the second week, and the TGWU threatened to bring out the whole fleet on 5 July. Now it seems that their struggle will take place in one month's time, when the threatened

cuts in bus service come into effect. This will now coincide with the end of the month's postponement of the Tube service cuts, so LT could be faced with a stoppage over the whole system.

This is the feeling amongst many rank and file LT workers. If the service cuts and redundancies are to be defeated it will take the combined strength of both sectors. A bus worker from Stamford Hill garage told HPP that the bus side were firmly behind the Underground when they were out on strike. "If they had stayed out for any longer then I think all the buses would have come out too," he said. "People definitely wanted to do something to support the Underground side."

The Fare Fight campaign, which was set up in January to bring together passengers and transport workers to fight the fares rise, the cuts in services and the loss of jobs caused by the Law Lords decision, issued thousands of leaflets calling on passengers to support the transport workers action. Hackney Fare Fighters were at Manor House and Finsbury Park stations handing out leaflets to stranded passengers. Fare Fight is now preparing a large number of leaflets to distribute during the next month, explaining what the dispute is about and detailing the cuts in service that will follow if LT get their way.

Transport rally

A massive march, called by the TUC and the Trade Union Defence Committee, will bring the campaign home to the Government in no uncertain manner. It is to be held on Saturday 10 July, leaving Hyde Park for a march to



Buses in Hackney: Many less soon, if LT have their way.

Trafalgar Square (set off 12 noon). Transport workers and users from all over the country are expected in a day of protest against the kinds of policies which are causing the ruin of public transport throughout Britain.

Also, a public meeting at Hackney Town Hall, called by the Council to protest at the effect that the bus cuts will have on Hackney,

will be held on Friday 9 July at 7.30 pm. Speakers will include GLC transport chair Dave Wetzel, Hackney Mayor (and bus driver) Sam Springer and TGWU representatives. During the day, a bus will be touring Hackney along the route of the 22a bus, which will be suffering severe cutbacks on 31 July, advertising the meeting. Keep your eyes open!

INSIDE



The Health Workers campaign steps up. HPP visits the local picket lines.

See page 5.

MATCHBOX
LESNEY
on its side

Lesney Products, makers of the Matchbox models, other toys and diecastings, called in the receivers last month. This move follows after more than two years in which the company has been fighting a cliff-hanging battle for survival: a £10m pre-tax profit in 1977 had by 1981 been reversed into a £10m loss.

Immediate causes of Lesney's collapse seem to be the pressure from cheap imports, high interest rates and the adverse rate of exchange which had made the Matchbox toys so overpriced abroad. The changing pattern of toy sales in this country has also not helped: specialist toyshops are going out of business and their sales are largely being taken over by chain stores, all pushing for discounts. These difficulties have been compounded by the fall in the birthrate, rapid changes in what children want and the growing number of unemployed parents who do not have enough money to be able to spend it on non-essentials like toys.

The roots of Lesney's downfall however go back much further than the last few years. Throughout the 1960s and '70s the company was making sizeable profits, but did not appear to be investing sufficiently in its future products. Even after the 1977 record figure of £10m, in 1978 pretax profit was £8.03. The company's rate of return on capital was very high indeed in the 1960s - nearly 70% at one point - and still above 20% in 1978. Amazing expansion took place. Firms were bought up in Singapore, the USA, Denmark and South America, overstretching the company's finances.

In 1980 the first signs of impending disaster were

Continued on page 8



Fancy Selection

Political life in Hackney was beginning to get back to normal after the excitement of the Council elections. The new guard was running around in ever-decreasing circles trying to control the Council officers, who were doing their best to thwart all the radical schemes as quickly as possible. The old guard were licking their wounds, and contemplating a life of Horlicks and early nights. Then what should happen? High drama! The selection conferences for two of Hackney's constituencies on the same day.

Long standing readers will recall the high jinks that we had in Hackney Central earlier this year, with the reselection of good old Stanley Clinton Davis. Dire threats of deselection were muttered. Arch conspirators like Ron Heisler and his twenty years younger clone Brynley Heaven conspired, although not with each other. (How strange that fate in the shape of the Haggerston Ward Liberals should intervene to prevent them both sitting on the Council at the same time!)

But of course Stanley made it, and quite easily in the end. In Hackney South, Ron Brown was also reselected. No Militant plots there, despite the scare stories in the press. But the SDP beckoned and Ron was called to join the careerists and claret swillers in the great saloon bar of SW1, so the plum seat of Hackney South was left without a candidate.

In Hackney North, meanwhile, Ernie Roberts had decided that he would quite like a second term in the House. When he was first selected, nearly five years ago now, he was given to saying that he would only be an MP for one term. Hackney North had had enough of MPs like Ernie's predecessor, David Weitzman, who went on into their eighties. But he

likes the life so much, and he is very difficult to fault, in his tireless pursuit of causes and great diligence in letter writing.

The good comrades of Hackney North decided, however, that Ernie shouldn't be allowed a completely clear run at his reselection. So the formality of branches nominating candidates was gone through. Ernie got 14 nominations, and none of the other candidates got more than one. All was so cut and dried that the next issue of the Party freesheet North Hackney News was allowed to go off to the printers confidently announcing that Ernie had been reselected. Such is democracy.

Fantasies

The selection at Hackney South was a much more exciting affair. With no sitting MP to worry about, members were free to indulge their wildest fantasies over who could get selected. A wide range of people were proposed. Many of them were from the dedicated band of Labour Party careerists who plod around the country looking for safe seats and a secure job for life. None of these have any direct connection with Hackney, of course. Others were local worthies active in Hackney, and amongst those nominated were Jim Cannon, John Carr and (perhaps surprisingly) Dinah Morley.

In the end after an exhaustive (and exhausting) ballot the final choice was between one of the professional Labour Party people, Brian Sedgemore, a Tony Benn aide who had been an MP for Luton from 1974 to 1979, and the dark horse Dinah Morley. To the disappointment of those who thought that Dinah's local

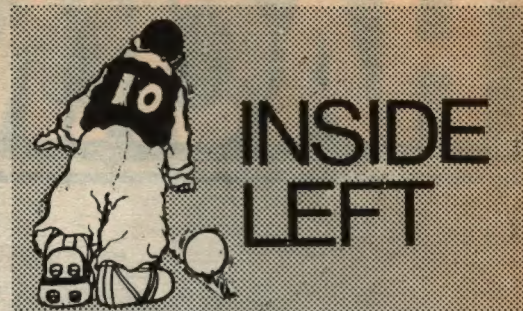
commitment and activity would make her an excellent MP she was defeated by Brian Sedgemore. Maybe her time will come again.

There is the minor inconvenience that Brian Sedgemore will have to face. That is getting elected against the well-known, moderate, lovable, respected etc etc Ron Brown. He, of course, has his own troubles, in that the Liberals want to put up their own candidate against him. Whether Jeff Roberts and his motley band of individualists will manage to defeat

the might of Liberal and SDP HQs remains to be seen. Perhaps the well-known, moderate, lovable, respected etc etc vote will get split and let dangerous left-winger Sedgemore (and we can expect plenty of smear stories about him in the Hackney Gazette) romp home in triumph.

And, of course, there is also the minor matter of the

boundary changes. If there is no election this autumn or next spring (and the local Labour Party certainly don't want one at the moment) then all the seats are to be redivided into just two. That means that Ernie, Stanley and Brian will be fighting all over again. That will not be a pretty sight. Oh, these are exciting times!



Law on the line

Hackney Legal Action Group currently operates an emergency legal advice service in conjunction with Hackney Law Centre by telephone each weekend. People ringing the emergency number (986 9891) are referred to the number of the lawyer on duty. About 25 lawyers are involved in the scheme. Most of the enquiries are to do with people detained by the police, where friends and relatives have been denied access to the person detained, and no details of when they are to be charged or released.

For some time, the number of enquiries received each weekend has been very small. This could mean that either the community in Hackney has no need of the scheme, or that it is underused. Given the racist, illegal and oppressive way in which the police in Hackney continue to act, we believe that there is a need for such a scheme, for two reasons. First, it provides advice and assistance to friends and relatives of people detained when they are confronted with a lack of co-operation, if not downright hostility, from the police, at a time when they are most unlikely to be able to get assistance or support from anywhere else. Secondly, the intervention of an outside organisation does, in our experience, affect to a limited extent the way in which the police treat a person in custody.

If it is right that there is a need for this type of scheme in Hackney, it is also

the case that this need is not being fulfilled by the present scheme. In the past, we have tried to improve the extent to which the scheme is used by publicity campaigns etc., but there has been very little improvement in the numbers using it as a result. It seems to us that the only way in which such a scheme can become more widely known and used is if those involved in the scheme come from and are widely known in the community. We obviously cannot do this on our own. If such a scheme is to be worthwhile, it must involve and be run by members of the community in Hackney, particularly the black community, given its oppression by the police.

USEFUL

What Hackney Legal Action Group can offer are resources which may, or may not, be useful: a telephone switching service, legal knowledge and training and a willingness to participate. Naturally some of us have ideas about some of these questions, but it seems to us that the ideas of people who work, live in and have close contact with the community are much more important.

We recognise the very limited way in which this sort of scheme can help to cope with the fundamental problem of a racist, oppressive and undisciplined police force with little respect even for the law.

It seems to us that an effective way in which a proposed telephone emergency advice scheme could be used - always assuming that those involved wished it - would be as part of a police monitoring scheme.

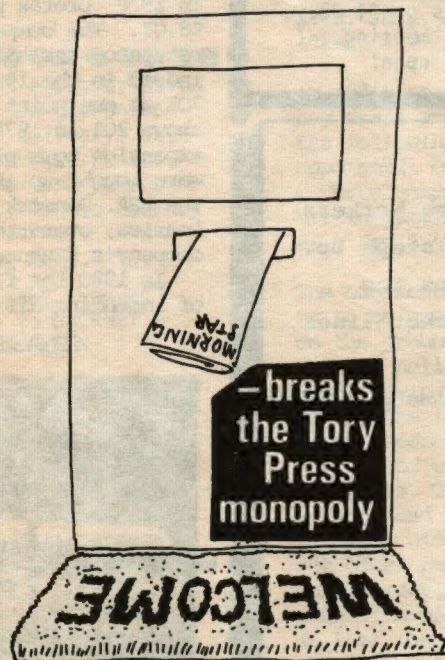
This idea is put forward very tentatively. We know that other people in the community in Hackney - particularly in the black community - are already thinking along these lines. We have no wish to undermine or compete with or in any way adversely affect any of these initiatives. We are also conscious of the criticism which has been made by the black community of middle-class whites seeking to jump on the bandwagon of police accountability and take it over. We genuinely do not intend this. What we do say is that the framework of a widely based community scheme referred to above may be a starting point around which some monitoring of more general complaints about the police could usefully be organised.

We believe that such a scheme is vital in order to better protect individuals who are powerless in the hands of the police and that it could also represent a small first step to achieving some control over the way the police act.

Such a scheme, however, cannot function without the active support and participation of the community in Hackney.

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Turkish workers come together

Turkish workers in the garment trade have recently come together to defend themselves against the threat of a 30 per cent wage cut. Local workers have recently formed a Garment Makers Association, because the Inland Revenue has begun to clamp down on the common practice of employers only paying tax on only part of the workers pay. The Garment Makers Association want to take this out on their workforces, and they have threatened to make a big cut in workers' wages.

GYMİŞLERİ
NUTGW'NA ÜYE OLUN



Workers now have to decide whether to join with the Turkish employers in campaigning for better prices from the large firms who subcontract work, or to join with other workers inside the Garment Workers Union, the NUTGW. The NUTGW already has many Greek, Bengali and English workers in clothing factories throughout London. So far, nearly 150 workers have joined the union.

Conditions in Hackney's rag trade factories are amongst the worst in the country. Factories are ill-lit, poorly ventilated and cramped, often in semi-derelict industrial buildings. Pay is often less than £70 gross for a skilled worker, sometimes working more than 50 hours per week.

In fighting for justice for the whole trade, the NUTGWU point out that workers' wages and conditions must be protected and regularised. The Turkish workers who join them face huge odds - not least the resistance to fascism in their own country. But they gain the strength of the union, and the solidarity of fellow workers.

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Politics for the people

The new style of Hackney politics got one of its first public airings at a meeting organised by Hackney Communist Party midway through June. The speakers were newly elected Council leader Anthony Kendall and CP secretary David Green, who were talking about socialist policies and Hackney Council.

Anthony Kendall began by listing the enormous number of ways in which the local state comes into contact with people's lives, and compared this with the pre-war situation. Housing for instance used to be seen as being provided by private greed, now it is seen mainly as being controlled by public incompetence. While the left in the Labour Party has been obsessed with gaining control over institutions, he went on, the base of its electoral strength has been eroded. "However," he said, "the change in Hackney leadership is not so important as getting people involved again in politics. We could do this by building on the genuine anger that people feel about issues such as unemployment and racism."

TESTS

At a local level, services provided by the Council have been developed in the wrong way. "At best they are patronising, at worst they are nasty and inefficient. And we face a massive problem in changing the Council's institutions. Decentralisation of services will face three crucial tests. These are whether it is local and efficient, whether it is controlled by the community, and whether it takes the political debate back into the community. It is simply not enough to see decentralisation as a management exercise. We are taking the argument into the community and developing a base from which socialism can emerge."

David Green identified one of the failings of Labour-controlled councils as trying to solve problems from above. This had led to many failures, for example, the creation of poor estates to replace slum housing. "Decentralisation has to mean that people can make decisions." This meant putting real money into the decentralisation programme to make it succeed. Ward councils had to be set up, with resources. Tenants Associations had to be given a budget to support them.

Discussion from the floor tended to be of the variety where people make long, detailed statements. Even so, a number of interesting points were made. The Council had to be seen to be a campaigning body. Adequate finance was necessary to make sure that the Council could implement its programme, so this would mean opening up the whole rate-making debate. The



A crowd of people enthusiastically waiting for Hackney Council to bring them socialism.

Council had to involve its own workforce in changing and improving services, not impose on them the changes that it wanted to make, like the GLC had done with London Transport over the Fair Fares issue. Somewhat hysterically, and in contrast to the reasoned unity pervading the meeting, new councillor Brynley Heaven announced that he was particularly upset that the CP had put up a candidate against him in the recent elections, as he was so left-wing. He was roundly condemned for

his arrogance.

In summing up, Anthony Kendall said that the Council would probably be holding some sort of conference, to bring together its workforce, community organisations, the Trades Council and the Labour Party itself. It will certainly have to be different from any other kind of conference if it is going to bring about any sort of socialist transformation, even on a small scale. Is there any hope of that? We will be keeping you informed.

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Jobless up

Hackney's unemployment figures continue to get worse. The total number unemployed in Hackney in May was 15,211, a figure that was only equalled during the worst months in 1931-33. It is made up of 10,555 men, 3,414 women and 1,242 young people. The percentage of people unemployed in the borough has got worse since the beginning of the year. In January, the rate for male adults was 19.3%. It is now a disgraceful 22.4%, far worse than almost the entire rest of the UK.

These figures are for registered unemployed. They do not take into account those who can't or don't register, or young people on Government temporary schemes of one sort or another.

Riot cure

The Department of the Environment has come up with an idea to stop Hackney from having any riots this summer. It's called "Money". They have just announced that a special sum of £25,000 is to be made available to Hackney for grants for summer projects for secondary school age children and young people.

A mole in the Department of the Environment has said that this money is anti-riot money. That kind of sum is hardly likely to relieve the boredom and frustration felt by young people. Nor will it change the racist behaviour of the police who will no doubt continue to harass young black people without cause.

But the money is there, and must be spent quickly. If any group can think of a project to run, and can use a few cool thousand, then contact J. Ives, 739 7600 ext 496 as soon as possible.



SAFER CYCLING IN HACKNEY

A quarter of a million cycle trips per day are now being made in Greater London by over 100,000 cyclists; in the past three years the number of cycles has grown by twenty per cent each year. London's cyclists are, as a result, now emerging (with GLC encouragement) as a fully fledged pressure group. Nowhere is this more so than in Hackney.

Cycle Route

Proposals for a "Market Porters" cycle route have recently received the backing of the Borough's Planning & Highways Committee. It is the first result of a campaign for better cycling facilities started by the Hackney Cyclists' Action Group. The route is named after the path taken by market porters in the days when vegetables were brought into the City from the market gardens of the Lea Valley. Under the current proposals, the cycle route will run from Hackney Town Hall, down Hackney Grove and Martello Street, across London Fields and down Broadway Market and Goldsmiths' Row to Hackney Road. Future extensions could take the route as far as Shoreditch in the south and Lea Bridge Road in the east. The route will follow quiet back streets, purpose-made tracks and share the wide footpath across London Fields with pedestrians. Pelican-type crossings are planned at major roads and red tarmac lanes will be provided along major sections.

Action Group

Hackney Cyclists' Action Group is pleased with the plan: "We hope that the Market Porters' route will be the first of a network of cycle routes that will transform cycling in Hackney. We would like to thank the Council Officers for the way in which they have approached their task."

GLC

Last June saw the setting up of the GLC's Bike Policy Unit to act as a clearing house for creating or creating up to 1000 miles of London cycle routes. The GLC has pledged to pay the entire cost of any new cycle routes in London and even give the Borough concerned a six per cent "agency fee" for designing and building the route. After only nine months' existence, the Bike Unit had already looked into more than eighty different cycle route schemes around the thirty-two London boroughs.

All Hackney cyclists are invited to support the London Cycling Campaign by joining the Hackney Cyclists' Action Group. Details are available from the Secretary, HCAG, 30 Lavers Road, N16.



Hackney's partnership

Yet again, Hackney's partnership programme is suffering at the hands of the Department of the Environment. Projects which have the backing of the local community and have been through the full process of consultation and approval are being cut, apparently quite arbitrarily, by civil servants. Other projects are left hanging in the air, undecided until too late for the project to go ahead even if it is agreed.

The delays to the present round of negotiations, for 1982-83 funding, are the latest in a long series. In 1981-82, for example, the DOE froze new projects on the statutory side, as being part of the overspending of which the Government accused the borough. After the threat of legal action, the grant was restored - in October 1981. A £10m package of voluntary and statutory projects was hurriedly submitted but delayed approvals by the DOE held them back until the end of March 1982 - far too late for the financing of that year's projects to be carried out with maximum effect.

Partnership process

Part of the reason for the delay is undoubtedly the lengthy process that every proposal has to go through. All projects put forward are first carefully vetted by Council officers and discussed in detail with the originators. They are each considered by the appropriate committee and then go on to the full Council for approval. They are then passed on to the Inner City

Unit where they are discussed with a DOE official. Next the proposals are passed on to the DOE, where they are considered by three different layers of officials before they are finally presented to the Minister for approval and action back in Hackney. At any level, projects can be, and are, referred back for explanation and have to start the climb through DOE all over again.

Given this amazing process, it is not surprising that the first news of the fate of this year's bids is only just coming through. It was the end of May that first decisions were announced although the first draft programme had been passed to the DOE at the beginning of the year and the final papers at the beginning of March. What has been announced is hardly good news either. DOE had said earlier that the notional allocation would be around £10-10.5m, including a 30% allowance for slippage. DOE has now approved 188 projects, at a cost of some £6.87m, rejected 26 (£1.59m) and is as yet undecided on a further 32 (£1.62m). It still has not decided what is to be the fate of earlier projects left from the previous year's submission because they were approved too late to start.

The approved figure may not look too unreasonable, but it does not take much calculating to work out that it will be impossible to spend that much. A sixth of this financial year has

already gone, so at least a sixth of the revenue allocation of £2.1m will be lost since it goes on salaries, rent, etc. There is bound to be some slippage on the rest (the capital allowance) so a maximum of £5.2m. could be spent.

Therefore, says the Council, even if the rest of the projects are approved without delay, not all the allocation can be spent unless new projects can be substituted. Given the consultation process, this will not happen within the year. The indications are however that DOE has no intention of passing all the proposals, but will indeed be cutting the earlier ones across the board by about a third, leaving the Council to sort out as best it can which ones to cut - hardly, one would have thought, a considered response by the DOE to a carefully prepared programme.

Anthony Kendall, leader of the Council, has several questions he wants answers to. Why has it taken so long for decisions to come through? Why were some of the projects turned down? The one-line rejections do not really explain. What does the DOE really want, if what is being submitted is turned down, although all the way along the process of preparation the guidelines laid down by the DOE have been strictly adhered to?

Certainly it is hard to see any particular rationale in the projects which have been rejected. These include Hackney Community Action, Centreprise Trust Unemployment Project, an administration

assistant for the Federation of Hackney Tenants - all schemes evaluated by Hackney as beneficial.

Has the DOE strangled itself with bureaucracy or is it a deliberate attempt to sabotage the programme?

The present system is clearly unsatisfactory. The DOE cannot cope with the complex programme whereby each of the 250 or so projects is individually checked through at so many levels. It is equally unsatisfactory that the rejections are being made by Whitehall-based civil servants with no immediate knowledge of what Hackney's needs are. It can hardly be considered that there is a "partnership" in any true sense when the process carried out so punctiliously by the borough according to the rules is overridden by the DOE.

Future hopes

Some slight hopes are however beginning to rise. The Hackney/Islington partnership has been split and a new chairman, Sir George Young, has just been appointed with responsibility for Hackney alone. He has already been to see some of the projects being funded by partnership in the borough and to discuss local needs. "We are looking forward," said Brian Weller, chair of the Community Development Committee, "to the new partnership chairman showing his commitment to Hackney by agreeing much more of this year's programme and achieving a greater understanding of the needs on which it is based."

SPLASH for better swimming in Hackney



If you swim in Hackney you will already know how difficult it is to get a swim. The pools are closed at 5pm and never open on Sundays: the most popular day for family swimming. You've probably also found the pools cold, old and pretty squalid.

That's all going to change with the new pressure group SPLASH - which is going to campaign for a better deal for swimmers of all ages in Hackney.

The well attended meeting at Clissold pool on June 23 started with a swim in the old pool, which put everyone in a good mood to come up with positive ideas for improving the pools.

DEMANDS

The main demands were for:

- restored opening hours in the evenings and at weekends
- more fun sessions for kids
- adult only swimming sessions
- no cuts in local pools when

the Britannia pool is built (going ahead at a cost of four million pounds)

- Whiston Rd, Clissold and Hackney Baths to be restored to their former glory with updated facilities for the elderly and the disabled
- decent, clean changing rooms and showers
- and when all the local pools are up to scratch we'll welcome the new fun pool in Shoreditch!

All this obviously means more money will have to be found to bring the pools up to a reasonable standard. In particular more staff may be needed to keep the pools open longer. But if the Council is serious then it ought to be able to reach an agreement with the unions on revised staffing levels, working hours, conditions and pay. The Vice-chair of the Leisure Committee has reassured SPLASH that it will be carrying out its manifesto promise to restore hours and upgrade the pools - we shall see.

If you want to get involved with SPLASH then come along to the next meeting at Hackney Baths on Wednesday July 21 at 7.30pm - preceded by a swim at 6.30pm. For further information contact Helen Petit at Hackney Community Action, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1. Tel 729 5536.

is this local control?

You may remember that the new Council has been elected on a firm programme of decentralisation. Radical change has been promised. Local people are to gain more control over the ways in which their lives are run.

So who is to determine how this decentralisation will be carried out. Are local people to be consulted? Well, not yet it seems. The first meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, the Council's most important committee, set up a working group on decentralisation. And on it are the Directors of every major Council department - the very heads of the bureaucracy that is always being criticised for being so remote. No Council workers from the lower grades, no members of the public. A token co-option here and there from the alternative bureaucracies of Hackney Community Action, Hackney Council for Racial Equality and the unions. It doesn't augur very well for the great leap forward.

Health workers protest

Health service workers' anger over the Government's latest derisory pay offer increased last month as a series of one-day strikes disrupted hospitals throughout the country. And there was evidence of growing support for their case from workers outside the health service as local council officials, teachers, transport workers and miners joined the picket lines to demand a decent wage for all NHS staff.

In Hackney, where health services have been among the worst casualties of the Government's cuts, there was solid support for the latest one day stoppage on 23 June. At the Hackney Hospital several services were affected and only emergency cases were being allowed through the picket lines. Nearly all the domestic and catering staff were out on strike and the Psychiatric Day Hospital was closed for the 24 hours. Some clerical staff at the hospital had also agreed to stop work for the day and several nurses, all members of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), had answered the strike call.



Support

One of the most important aspects of last month's strike was the level of support from workers outside the health service. In Hackney, council workers formed pickets at several depots, including Millfields, Defoe, Kingsland Road and Morning Lane, whilst at the Town Hall members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) agreed to take action to help hospital staff in their struggle for a decent wage.

Local firemen also joined in the dispute and sent a delegation to the picket outside the Hackney Hospital expressing solidarity. Hackney Council's Labour Group offered their support and among the councillors who walked down to the hospital in Homerton High Street were newly-elected leader Anthony

Kendall and social services chair Patrick Kodikara.

Even though the unions emphasised that their dispute was with the Government and not the local health authority, the hospital management seemed reluctant to co-operate with the strike committee. It was rumoured that the administrators had called the police to the hospital, despite the fact that the picket lines were orderly. The police themselves came close to provoking an angry incident, when one officer pulled up a passing motorist who had sounded his horn in support of the strikers and threatened to charge him with illegal use of the motor horn.

In other hospitals around the area there was a varying response to the strike call.

Workers at the Bethnal Green Hospital were said to have been solidly in favour of taking industrial action and they were supported on the picket line by Tower Hamlets council workers.

Barts

Down in the City, at Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, workers had agreed to take selective action, which affected theatres and the transport of supplies. But a NUPE official reported that some of the other unions had not decided what action to take until the last minute.

The recent series of strikes was called by health service unions in response to the Government's failure

to recognise that NHS staff, who are among the lowest paid workers in the country, should be treated as a special case in pay negotiations. The 4% offer which was made to the health workers in April was considered an insult, particularly when Tory Ministers agreed to offer top civil servants - including themselves - salary increases of up to 18%. For many of the lowest paid hospital workers a 4% pay rise would give them less than 80p more in their weekly wage packet.

Standards

Many of the striking health workers have pointed out that this dispute is not just about securing a decent living wage, but is also an attempt to stop the Government running down the National Health Service. They point out that as their pay is sinking lower and lower in relation to inflation, more and more workers are being forced to leave the NHS, because they

can't afford to live on the wages they get. The average weekly wage for a porter or a cleaner is less than £60 and ambulance crews, whose skill is often needed to save the lives of patients, earn less than £80 a week before tax.

Incentives for joining the health service are poor: a student nurse in London can expect to start training on less than £3500 a year, and the pay prospects once qualified are considerably less than those of a qualified teacher or social worker, for example.

In Hackney the standard of health care has been declining for many years and has deteriorated dramatically since the Tories began their public service cuts. The health service unions claim that a decent level of pay is essential for their workers as their morale is already low. If the Government refuse to grant them 12% then not only hospital workers, but local patients too, will suffer.

DEFEND THE HEALTH SERVICE

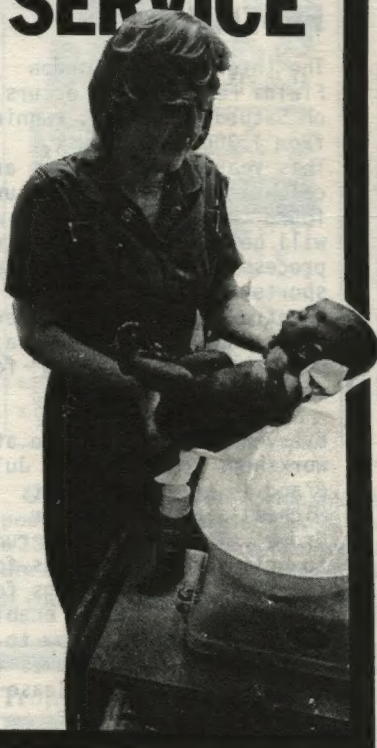
If the Government can afford to pay judges 18% more and top Civil Servants 14% more, then it can afford to pay those who care for us 12%. The Government's offer of 4% would mean 0.79p a week more for the lowest paid health workers. An insult!

The health workers will not win alone. They need all our support. If they win we all win. We need to work together to end low pay both in and out of the health service. We need more money and resources for Hackney's health services, not less.

We are all users of the NHS at some time in our lives. We must support the people who work for the NHS and encourage them to continue the fight to improve health services in Hackney.

How you can help:

- Join the union pickets
- Sign the local petition
- Get your workplace to 'adopt' a hospital
- Raise the NHS workers claim in your union, tenants association, community group.
- Support Hackney Trades Council and the local trade unions in the fight against low pay.
- Write to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1 (Ernie Roberts, Hackney North, Stanley Clinton Davies, Hackney Central, Ron Brown, Hackney South).



Photos: John Searby.

FESTIVAL '82

stoke newington festival

Summer brings with it various festivals and carnivals - a time to forget, for a while at least, the problems people face in their daily lives in Hackney. Stoke Newington Festival events will be taking place from July 5, building up to the weekend of Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July.

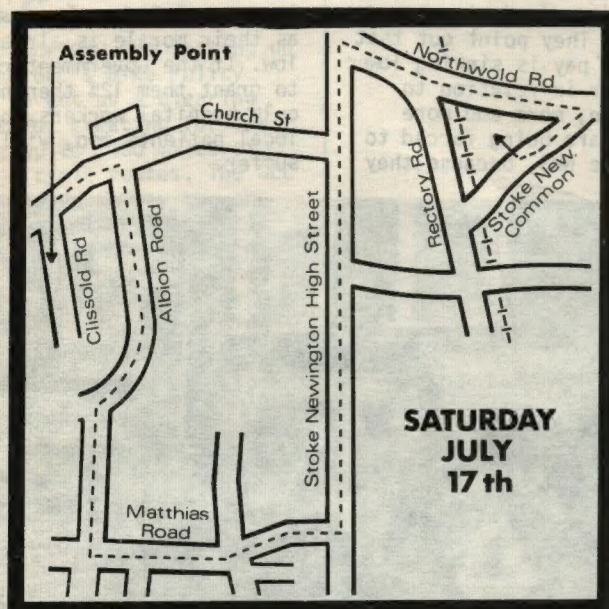
On Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15, evening events will take place from 7pm at Clissold Park. On Saturday 17 the Carnival Parade leaves Clissold Road at noon and makes its way via Albion Road, Matthias Road, Stoke Newington High Street and Northwold Road to Stoke Newington Common, arriving at approx 1 pm.

FAIRGROUND

ALL WEEKEND!!



**Carnival procession route
—1982—**



Carnival Procession Route

LEAVES CLISSOLD CRESCENT AT 12.00 NOON
ARRIVES AT COMMON APPROXIMATELY 1.00 PM

STOKE NEWINGTON COMMON EVENTS

16TH, 17TH, 18TH JULY

Events at the common will be taking place from 11 am to 9 pm, and include pony rides, adventure playground, Stilt Walker, children's theatre, pipe and steel bands, dancing, etc. On Sunday 18, again at Stoke Newington Common there will be events and stalls from 10am onwards, including the interpub Tug-o-War at 11am, inter city theatre, book bus, plus music and dance for everyone.

Thursday, July 15, 7.30 p.m.
CLISSOLD PARK
HACKNEY FESTIVAL at
STOKE NEWINGTON FESTIVAL

A SPECTACULAR
PARACHUTE JUMP
by
THE PERIOD PARACHUTE
DISPLAY TEAM

No tickets required.

hackney marsh fun festival

The Hackney Marsh Fun Festival returns to Daubeny Fields (entrance in Kingsmead Way) for two days of community celebration on July 10 and 11. The opening times will be Sat 2-10pm and Sun noon - 9pm.

This year's theme is "The Sound of Music" and in the Carnival procession on July 10 there will be awards for: the best decorated float, the best decorated marching group and the best individual costume. The Carnival starts and finishes at Kingsmead Way, going via Meeson St, Daubeny Rd, Mandeville St, Millfields Rd, Chatsworth Rd, Clifden Rd, Churchill Walk, Homerton Row, Brooksbys Walk, Homerton High St and Marsh Hill.

Stalls on the Festival site are available at a rate of £5 per organization per day (Free if your stall makes no charge). 'Phone A1 or D1 on 986 6714 for further details.

GRAHAM ROAD SUMMER FETE

The Graham Rd and District Summer Fete takes place on Sunday July 4 from 2-9pm in Stannard Rd, E8. Stalls, music, entertainment and a disco will be features of this Festival. It is hoped, too, to organise children's races and a fancy dress competition.

LONDON FIELDS FESTIVAL

The International London Fields Festival '82 occurs on Saturday July 17, running from 1.30pm until dusk. This year the organisers are celebrating the many cultures found in the area. There will be a children's carnival procession; real ale and teas; sports and martial arts; theatre groups and an under fives supervised play area; punch and judy; "amazing" food and live music.

Everyone will be welcome at workshops to be held on July 8 and 15 at 7.30pm in St. Michael's Hall, Lavender Grove. These are being run to help make decorations for the festival site, flags for the procession and to enable volunteers to learn how to organise children's games for the festival day. Please ring 249 7026 for more details.



Photo: Last year's
London Fields Festival

FINSBURY PARK CARNIVAL

This year Finsbury Park Carnival will again be taking place over the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

There is still time for local schools, community groups and others to enter their steel band, ethnic and dance groups, etc. Any offers of sponsorship money from local traders would also be appreciated so that it might enable cash prizes to be given to the best entries in the various categories.

Help the Aged

As revealed in last month's HPP, apart from providing a day of multicultural events the Carnival aims to assist a national charity. This year HELP THE AGED has been chosen. Six hundred oaps - two hundred each from Hackney, Islington and Haringey - will be entertained to tea. As well as providing practical help the aim is also partly psychological: to help reassure the elderly that they are not forgotten at a time when many are worried about going out because of reports of muggings, etc.



Individuals or groups wanting to set up a stall at the Carnival (on Bank Holiday Monday) will need to apply for a permit. All enquiries should be made to Ken Auguste, Secretary Finsbury Park Carnival Committee, 150 Amhurst Road, London E8 2A2, Tel 254 9175.

Next month HPP will be giving more details of the events planned for the Bank Holiday Weekend. Reserve a copy now with your newsagent!

July 3 & 4
SHOREDITCH FESTIVAL
Hoxton St Market, 3rd,
The Green Shoreditch Park
eve 3rd and 4th.
Contact: Carol Young
739 6348

July 4
STOP THE JUGGERNAUTS
Graham Rd and District Residents Association; Stannard Rd, E8.
Contact: Rebecca Smith
254 1926

July 10 & 11
HACKNEY MARSH FUN FESTIVAL
Daubeny Fields, E9
Contact: Alan Rossiter
986 6714

July 17 & 18
STOKE NEWINGTON FESTIVAL
Carnival Procession around the area on 17th then on site at Stoke Newington Common, N 16
Contact: Patrick Harris
254 3294

July 17
LONDON FIELDS FESTIVAL
London Fields, E8
Contact: Steve Mead
249 8305

July 17
WOODBERRY DOWNS FESTIVAL
Woodberry Down School, N4
(Also games evening at W.D. Boys' Club on 13th and concert at school on 17th)
Contact: Capt. M Fry
249 7830

August 7
HOLLY STREET FESTIVAL
Holly Street Estate,
Queensbridge Rd, E8
Contact: Gordon Theobald
249 6476

August 14
FRAMPTON PARK ESTATE FESTIVAL
Frampton Park Estate, E8
Contact: Amarjit Kochhar
985 1132

August 28, 29 & 30
FINSBURY PARK CARNIVAL
Finsbury Park, N4
Contact: Ken Auguste
254 3669

September 18
DE BEAUVOIR CARNIVAL
Carnival Procession around De Beauvoir. On site at Rozell Green, DE Beauvoir Estate.
Contact: Anita Cane
249 3669

September 25
HACKNEY TOWN SHOW
Clissold Park, N16
Contact: Larry Fabian
739 7600 ext 488

For further details or enquires contact:
Patrick Harris (Chair)
Hackney Festival Support Group, 12 Palatine Rd, N16
249 4543 (W)
254 3294 (H)

WHAT'S ON

Cinema

ASTRA
119 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 0046
Phone cinema for details

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.
Tues 6: Two anti-nuclear films
Concertissimo and Children of
Hiroshima. 7.30.

KONAK
13/15 Stoke Newington Rd N16
254 2415
Phone cinema for details

HACKNEY FESTIVAL FILMS
In association with Hackney
Film Society, at Homerton
Library Hall, Homerton High
Street, E9.
Thurs 1: Sgt Pepper's Lonely
Hearts Club Band. 7.30.
Fri 2: On the Town. 7.30.

RIO
107 Kingsland High Street,
E8. (254 6677).
Until 3: The Marriage of
Maria Braun. Mon-Sat 6.10
and 8.20. Suns 6.20 and
8.30.
4-10: Pennies from Heaven.
Sun-Fri 6.00 and 8.00.
Sats additional showing at
3.45.
11-17: Ragtime. Sun-Fri
5.20 and 8.05. Sats addi-
tional showing at 2.30.
18-24 Victor Victoria
Sun-Fri 5.35 and 8.10.
Sats additional showing
at 3.00.
25-31: Lord of the Rings.
Mon-Sat 3.00, 5.35 and 8.10.
Sunday 5.35 and 8.10 only.

Sunday matinees
4: Masque of the Red Death
2.30 and The Seventh Seal
4.00.
11: Oedipus Rex 2.00 and
Letter from an unknown
woman. 3.50.
18: Winstanley 2.15 and So
that you can live 4.00.
25: Camille 2.00 and The
Revolt of Mamie Stover 3.55.
All programmes £2 adults,
£1 children, 60p OAPs.

Theatre

HALF MOON
213 Mile End Road, E1
(790 4000)
Sat 3: Childrens Theatre:
Riders of the Sea by Theatre
of Thelema. An exciting,
underwater extravaganza for
7-12 year olds set in the
lost kingdom of Atlantis.

From Tues 6: Trafford Tanzi
by Claire Luckham. A brilliant
account of a life and marriage
seen over ten rounds in the
wrestling arena. A no holds
barred knock out contest
between Tanzi and her chauv-
inist pig husband. Unmissable.
Mon-Thurs 8.00. £3.00 (Students
and OAPs £2.00).
Fri and Sat 8.00. All £4.00.
Free to unemployed. Subject to
availability of tickets.

Sun 25: Sunday Wrestling at
7.00. During the run of
Trafford Tanzi the Olympic
Wrestling Association presents
its Commonwealth Games wrest-
lers in an English Regional
Championship. £1.00. Students
and OAPs 50p.

Sat 10: Demolition Day. 1.00
Jumble Sale and Fair.
10.00. Demolition spectacular.
Music booze and fireworks
as the old factory behind the
theatre goes up in
smoke. ALL FREE!

Mon 12: Hayfield Tavern, Mile
End Road, E1. Meeting of the
Half Moon Writers Workshop
8.00.

Sun 18: George Melly and
John Chilton's Feetwarmers.
8.30. £5.00.

Mon 26: Hayfield Tavern, Mile
End Road, E1. Meeting of the
Half Moon Writers Workshop.
8.00.

THEATRE ROYAL
Gerry Raffles Square, E15.
(534 0310)
Theatre closed for performances
all month due to reseating
work. The bar will remain
open as usual.

HACKNEY FESTIVAL
at London Fields, Richmond Road,
E8.
Sat 17: The Inner City Theatre
Company in Wot a Wopper, a
family show. No tickets needed.
1.30.

Music

CHAT'S PALACE
- See under separate heading

CROWN AND CASTLE
600 Kingsland High Road, E8
254 3678

Downstairs bar: live folk
music most nights - free
Upstairs bar: Doors open
at 9pm. Show starts at
10pm. Entrance - Fridays
£1.50. UB40's £1. On
Saturdays: £2, UB40's: £1.30
Sat 3: The Three Courgettes
(vocals) and Foot and Mouth
(comedy duo). and John Hegley
(poet).

Sat 10: Oscar McLennan (poet
and Tunatic) and Randolph the
Remarkable (defies description)
and surprise guest.

Programme for remainder of
month unconfirmed. Ring for
details or check listings
press.

FOX'S WINE BAR

FOX'S WINE BAR
Stoke Newington Church St, N.16.
254 2709.

Fri 2: Alistair Gavin (piano)
and Jim Saunders (sax). 8.30.
Sun 4: Jan Ponsford (vocals)
and Alistair Gavin (piano).
8.30.

Fri 9: Terry Disley (piano)
and Jo Mydell (vocals). 8.30.
Sun 11: Alistair Gavin (piano)
and Jan Ponsford (vocals).
8.30.

Sunday lunchtimes throughout
July: Jess Bailey (piano)
and Chris Glassfield (guitar)

Programme for second half of
month unconfirmed. Phone for
details.

HALF MOON THEATRE
See under Theatre

HACKNEY MUSICIAN'S COLLECTIVE
Live gigs every Thursday
evening 8-11 at the Sir
George Robey (opposite the
Rainbow), Finsbury Park.

Thurs 1: Walking wounded
plus the Fleas
Thurs 8: Section 10 plus
Animal Graphics
Thurs 15: Purple Panic and
Wimpey and Chips Twice
Thurs 22: Left hand Sugar
plus Redwitch
Thurs 29: Parkdown Jets
plus support

THE PEGASUS
109 Green Lanes, N16
254 5930
All bands start at 9pm
Prices range from £1 to
£2.

Monday 12, 19, 26: 20th
Century Blues
Every Tuesday: Macrami
Brothers
Thurs 1: Hank Wangford
Thurs 8: Back Handers
Thurs 15: J. J. and the
Jealous Guys
Thurs 22, 29: Hank Wangford
Fri 2, 9, 23, 30: Juice on
the loose
Fri 16: Micky Jupp
Every Saturday: Big Cheif
Sun 4, 11: Ivory Coasters
Sunday 18, 25: Republic

PEMBURY ARMS
90 Amhurst Road, E8
985 5288
Phone for details.

Other events

THE UFTON CENTRE

12 Ufton Road, N1
254 2941
Mums and toddlers Mons
1.30-3.30, Weds 10.30-
12.30
Gingerbread (one parent
family group) Mons 7.30-10.00
Yoga Tues 9.45-11.45
Cooking Weds 7.30-9.30
Keep fit Weds 7.30-9.30
Senior citizens Thurs
2.00-4.00
Luncheon club Thurs 12.30-
1.30
Tai chi Thurs 12.30-8.30
Welfare rights advice
Fris 1.30-3.00

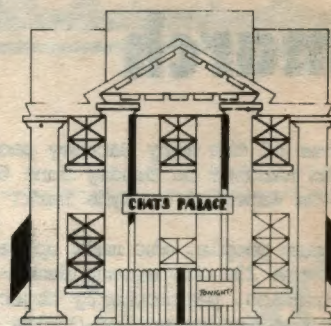
Meetings

Mon 5: Hackney Community
Action open meeting. 7.45.
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Rd,
N.16.

Sat 24: Stoke Newington
Community Association -
official opening of Old
Fire Station, Leswin Road,
N.16. 12 noon - 4.00.

Mon 19: Hackney Communist
Party open meeting with
Sam Aaronovitch, author
of The Road from Thatcher-
ism and Councillor Charles
Clarke, joint author of
Towards A Mass Party. 8.00.
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Rd,
N.16.

chats palace



42 Brooksby's Walk, E9.
986 6714.

Fri 2: Benefit for East London
Workers Against Racism with
Talkover and Bonzai Forest
plus disco. 8.00. £2 (£1.50
unwaged).

Sat 3: Chats Palace Music Hall
with Rita Triesman's Gaslight
Gaieties. 8.00. £2 (£1 unwaged)
Sun 4: Lunchtime jazz with
Graham Read's Futuristic
Rhythm. 12 noon. £1.

Tues 6: Under 17s Club Night
with Sir Shane sounds. 25p. 7.30.
Thurs 8: Irish session with
Jimmy Powell, Paddy Malin
and An Rinnce. 8.00. £1 (50p
unwaged)

Fri 9: Tara Rajkumar - an
evening of Kathkali entetaa
entertainment. £2 (£1 unwaged).
8.00.
Sat 10/Sun 11: Hackney Marsh
Fun Festival. All day.

Tues 13: Under 17s Club Night
with Sir Shane or Apollo. 7.30.
25p.
Thurs 15: Open meeting to di-
scuss use of new balcony
space. 8.00.

Fri 16/Sat 17: Spare Tyre Th
Theatre Co in On the Shelf.
8.00. £2. (£1 unwaged).
Sun 18: Lunchtime jazz with
Pete Nu Trio. 12 noon. £1.

Tues 20: Under 17s Club Night
with Sir Shane or Apollo. 7.30.
25p.

Thurs 22: Marika Rivera's Cafe
Theatre. 8.00. £2 (£1 unwaged).
Fri 23: Benefit for East
London Troops Out Movement.
Bands to be confirmed. 8.00.
£2 (£1 unwaged).
Sat 24: Chats Palace Nutclub
New Variety Night. 8.00.
£2 (£1 unwaged).
Sun 25: Lunchtime jazz with
Graham Read's Futuristic
Rhythm. 12 noon. £1.

Tues 27: Under 17s Club Night
with Sir Shane or Apollo. 7.30.
25p.

Thurs 29: Hi-Life Party Night
with Jazira and Utopia with
disco. £2 (£1 unwaged).
Fri 30: Pelican Club disco -
a night of madness, music and
cocktails. £1.50 (75p unwaged).
8.00.

Sat 31: Cypriot Evening with
Theatre Technis Youth Theatre,
dancers and poems. 8.00.
£2 (£1 unwaged).

The What's On listings are
free - so if we've missed
you out, please let us
know as soon as possible
by writing to Hackney
Peoples Press, 47a Gray-
ling Rd, N16 before
July 24th.

HALF MOON THEATRE PRESENTS

Battle of the Sexes

**TRAFFORD
TANZI**

the Venus Flytrap
versus
The Ever Popular

DEAN REBEL
FIGHT TO THE FINISH



PLUS THE TRAFFORD TANZI STORY



Written
by
Claire ★
Luckham
Hellcat
Feminist

Music
by
Chris ★
Monks
'Electric
Tunesmith'

Directed
by
Chris ★
Bond
Drunken
Pig

"an astonishing
evening of
rabble-rousing
theatricality"
- Daily
Telegraph

**FROM
JULY 6**

**790
4000**

**213 MILE END RD.
STEPNEY GREEN**

Presented in association with Freedman Panter Ltd. and by arrangement with James and Charlene Nederlander and Richard Vos
Subsidised by the Arts Council of Great Britain, G.L.C. and London Borough of Tower Hamlets

